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Stephen Hardley

Dated 22 September 2004

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1/77

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JNR/DAB/PB60533P

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03 NOV 2003

0325628.6

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of
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Glaxo Group Limited
Glaxo Wellcome House, Berkeley Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0NN, Great Britain

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the
country/state of its incorporation

United Kingdom

4735 87003

4. Title of the invention

A Hand-Held Capsule Device

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Corporate Intellectual Property

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Corporate Intellectual Property (CN9 25.1)
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Middlesex TW8 9GS

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796098200

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Description
Claim(s)
Abstract
Drawings

17
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We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

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A Hand-Held Capsule Device

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a hand-held capsule device and is particularly, but not exclusively, concerned with such a device for use in a dry powder inhaler in which the capsules each contain an inhalable medicament powder.

10

Background of the Invention

Dry powder inhalation devices ("DPI" for short) are well established for use in treating respiratory diseases. As an example, there may be mentioned the DISKUS® device of GlaxoSmithKline. In general, the pharmaceutical composition is formulated as a respirable powder and the powder is divided into a plurality of unit doses, each dose contained in its own sealed enclosure, for example blisters on a dosing strip. In use of the inhaler, the enclosures are opened, one at a time, by an opening mechanism of the inhalation device and the powder dose entrained into a patient's respiratory tract by an airflow generated through the device by the patient inhaling at a mouthpiece of the device.

The present invention proposes novel concepts having potential application in a DPI.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention there is
5 provided a track adapted for use in a hand-held,
capsule-containing device which is adapted to receive
a series of capsules therein and defines a conveying
path along which the capsules are conveyable, the path
including at least one fold section thereby to provide
10 the path with a space-saving configuration.

The present invention further provides a hand-
held device for conveying capsules therein having a
track according to the invention.

15

Preferably, the hand-held device is adapted for
use as a component of an inhalation device for
delivering medicament to a patient.

20 Preferred features of the invention are set forth
in the subordinate claims appended hereto, as well as
in the non-limiting exemplary embodiments of the
invention hereinafter described with reference to the
accompanying FIGURES of drawings.

25

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGURE 1 illustrates a first hand-held device
having a foldable track.

FIGURE 2 is an exploded perspective view of the first hand-held device without a capsule chain for better understanding.

5 FIGURE 3 is a plan view of the first hand-held device with the upper face removed to better show a capsule chain in the device.

10 FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional side view of the first hand-held device along line IV-IV in FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a schematic view illustrating a conveying mechanism for the capsule chain provided in the first hand-held device.

15 FIGURES 6A-6F are a sequence of plan views corresponding to FIGURE 3 showing the capsule chain as it moves through a complete circuit in the first hand-held device.

20 FIGURE 7 is a plan view of a second hand-held device according to the present invention with its upper face removed to better show a capsule chain in the device.

25 FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional side view of the second hand-held device along line VIII-VIII in FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 9 is a cross-sectional underneath view of the second hand-held device along line IX-IX in FIGURE 8.

5 FIGURE 10 is a side view of one of the capsules in the capsule chain in the second hand-held device.

10 FIGURE 11 is an end view of the capsule of FIGURE 10 on arrow X.

10

FIGURE 12 is an end view of the capsule of FIGURE 10 on arrow Y.

15 FIGURE 13 is a longitudinal section through two linked capsules of the capsule chain of the second hand-held device.

20 FIGURES 14A-E are a sequence of plan views corresponding to FIGURE 7 showing the capsule chain as it moves through a complete circuit in the second hand-held device.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

25 FIGURES 1-6 show a first hand-held device 1 in accordance with the present invention. The device 1 has a housing 3, in this embodiment made from a plastics material, optionally formed by moulding. The

5,7, respectively. In this way, as shown in FIGURE 2, the upper, lower and side faces 5,7,9 bound an inner volume 15 of the housing 3.

5 As shown in FIGURES 2 and 3, in the housing inner volume 15 there is provided an endless track 17 which receives an endless chain 19 of unlinked capsules 21. The track 17 has a path which is disposed adjacent the outer periphery of the housing 3 other than at a
10 generally U-shaped fold section 23 of the track 17 which extends inwardly. The fold section 23 forms a loop or chicane in the track 17. The plan view of FIGURE 3 shows that the fold section 23 gives the track a closed W-shape configuration.

15

The upper and lower faces 5,7 respectively present a roof 18 and a base 20 of the track 17. Moreover, the sides of the track 17 are presented by an inner surface 10 of the housing side face 9 and an
- 20 opposing side face 24 of an inner wall structure 25 in the housing inner volume 15. The inner wall structure 25 may be of a plastics material, for instance made by moulding. Moreover, the inner wall structure 25 may be integrally formed with one of the other parts of
25 the housing 3.

As will be seen from FIGURES 3 and 6, the capsules 21 are the same, with each comprising a hollow, generally cylindrical tube 26. In this
30 embodiment the capsules 21 are made from a plastics material, preferably by moulding. The capsules 21 are

disposed upright in the track 17 in side-by-side relation. The capsules 21 are adapted to receive a powder content therein, for example a medicament powder, and may take the form shown and described in

- 5 Applicant's co-pending UK patent application No. 0227128.6 filed on 20 November 2002, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

- 10 Where the capsules 21 each contain a dose of an inhalable medicament powder, the device 1 may take the form of a dry powder inhaler (DPI), as indicated by the provision of a mouthpiece 28 on the housing 3. The mouthpiece 28 could be replaced by another form of
15 nozzle, for instance a nozzle sized and shaped for insertion into a nasal cavity.

Each capsule 21 may have a length (height) in the range of about 5mm to about 15mm and an outer diameter
20 in the range of about 3mm to about .8mm. In other words, the capsules 21 may be referred to as a "microcapsule". Such capsules 21 may be suited for holding a unit dose of a medicament powder in the range of about 2 μ g to about 30mg. The capsules 21 may
25 contain a unit dose of pure active drug substance, or a blend of pure active drug substances, in the range of about 2 μ g to about 250 μ g (i.e. no bulk filler), or a bulked out unit dose of a medicament powder up to

For a small unit dose of medicament powder, for instance in the range of about 2-250 μ g, it is preferable for the capsules 21 to have a length (height) in the range of about 5mm to about 6mm and an 5 outer diameter in the range of about 3mm to about 5mm.

Referring particularly to FIGURE 5, the housing 3 is provided with a conveying mechanism for conveying the capsule chain 19 around the track 17. The 10 conveying mechanism comprises a gear train 27 comprising six spur gear wheels 29a-f rotatably mounted in the housing 3. The gear wheels 29a-f in the embodiment are of a plastics material, optionally formed by moulding.

15

One of the gear wheels 29a (hereinafter the "actuator gear wheel") protrudes from the housing side face 9 thereby enabling a user of the device 1 to cause rotation thereof with one of the fingers (e.g. 20 thumb) of their hand holding the device 1 (see FIGURE 1).

The other gear wheels 29b-f (hereinafter the "auxiliary gear wheels") mesh with selected ones of 25 the other auxiliary gear wheels and the actuator gear wheel 29a such that rotation of the actuator gear wheel 29a results in concurrent rotation of each of the auxiliary gear wheels 29b-f. Specifically, in this embodiment the central auxiliary gear wheel 29f meshes 30 with each of the other auxiliary gear wheels 29b-e, which can be considered as satellite auxiliary gear

wheels. Moreover, one of the satellite auxiliary gear wheels 29b meshes with the thumbwheel 29a. In this way, rotation of the thumbwheel 29a causes rotation of each auxiliary gear wheel 29b-f.

5

As will be further seen from FIGURES 4 and 5, each auxiliary gear wheel 29b-f is rotatably connected to a star wheel or a sprocket 31b-f. More particularly, each sprocket 31b-f has a spindle 33b-f which is mounted at one end thereof to the associated auxiliary gear wheel 29b-f at its axis of rotation. The other end of each spindle 33b-f is rotatably mounted in a recess in the roof 18 (the recess 34f for the centrally-located sprocket 33f is shown in FIGURE 4). In this embodiment, the sprockets 31b-f are formed of a plastics material, optionally by moulding.

As will be appreciated, when the auxiliary gear wheels 29b-f are driven by the actuator gear wheel 29a, this results in rotation of the sprockets 31b-f. As will be appreciated, the sprockets 31b-f all rotate concurrently.

As will be understood from FIGURE 2, each sprocket 31b-f is positioned at a bend 35b-f in the track 17 such that its teeth 37 engage the capsules 21 at the respective bend. Accordingly, when the sprockets 31b-f rotate in response to the thumbwheel

FIGURES 6A-F show a full circuit of the capsule chain 19 in the track 17, with the capsules 21 in different segments of the capsule chain 19 being coded 5 differently in FIGURES 6A-F to better illustrate the capsule movement. As shown by the arrows in FIGURES 6A-F, the rotation of the thumbwheel 29a in one rotative sense causes the capsule chain 19 to be driven by the conveying mechanism through the track 17 10 in the opposite rotative sense.

It will be appreciated that the provision of the fold section 23 in the track 17 provides the track with an increased path length compared to the case 15 where the track 17 simply follows the outer periphery of the housing 3.. Expressed another way, the fold section 23 gives the track 17 a compact, space-saving configuration. Accordingly, the track 17 is able to receive more capsules 21. When the device 1 is a dry 20 powder inhaler, for instance, this means that the device is able to carry more doses of the powder medicament meaning that it will not need to be replaced by a patient so frequently.

25 It will also be appreciated by the skilled reader in the art that each gear wheel 29a-f in the gear train 27 could be replaced by a smooth-surfaced wheel with drive being transmitted along the train, and hence to the sprockets 31b-f, by frictional engagement 30 between the wheels, i.e. through rolling contact between the wheels at respective pitch points.

In FIGURES 7-14 there is shown a second hand-held device 101 in accordance with the present invention. The second hand-held device 101 corresponds closely to the first hand-held device 1. Accordingly, like features are identified by like reference numerals and no detailed description of the common features in the second device 101 will be given.

10 In the second device 101 the track 117 has a capsule chain 119 which is constituted by chain-linked capsules 121. That is to say, the capsules 121 in the chain 119 are linked together, not detached as in the first device 1. More particularly, the capsules 121
15 are linked into the chain 119 such that the chain 119 can be bent to go round the bends 135b-f of the track 117.

FIGURES 10-12 show one of the capsules 121 in the capsule chain 119 in greater detail. The hollow cylindrical tube 126 has an upper end 161 and a lower end 163 which is spaced longitudinally from the upper end 161. The tube 126 is provided with a foot 165 which extends radially outwardly from the lower end 163 and has an upstanding circular boss 167.

As shown in FIGURE 13, the foot 165 provides the linkage for the capsule chain 116 inasmuch as the boss.

Moreover, the relative dimensioning of the boss 167 and the lumen 169 enables the capsules 121 to pivot about the boss 167 inserted thereinto thereby enabling the capsule chain 119 to negotiate the bends 135b-f in
5 the track 117.

Preferably, the boss 167 has an outer diameter d1 which is equal to, or marginally less than, the inner diameter d2 of the circular lumen 169 of the tube 126.

10

At the upper end 161 of the cylindrical tube 126 there is provided a radial lip segment 162. As will be appreciated from FIGURES 7 and 13, the purpose of the lip segments 162 is to prevent, or substantially 15 prevent, the capsules 121 tilting about their longitudinal axes when linked into the capsule chain 119 by bearing against the neighbouring capsules 121 in the chain 119.

20

Further information on the capsules 121, and on different forms they may take, is contained in Applicant's co-pending UK patent application No. 0308969.5 filed on 17 April 2003, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

25

The capsules 121 in the second device 101 may be of corresponding dimensions to those mentioned previously for the capsules 21 of the first device 1. Moreover, the lumen 169 of each capsule 121 may have 30 an inner diameter d2 in the range of about 1mm to about 6mm. For a small unit dose of pharmaceutical

powder, for instance in the range of about 2-250 μ g, it is preferable for the lumen inner diameter d2 to be in the range of about 1mm to about 3mm, more preferably about 2mm.

5

As shown in FIGURE 7, for example, the inner surface of the track 117 in the second device 101 is not defined by a central insert, as in the first device 1. Instead, the second device 101 has a plurality of generally U-shaped clips 151a-c clipped thereinto. The resilient outer limb 153a-c of each clip 151a-c defines the side sections of the track 117. Moreover, on the inside of each of the track bends 135b-e is disposed a pillar 155b-e about which the capsule chain 119 is wound.

Having the capsules 121 linked together into the chain 119 enables the conveying mechanism of the device 101 to be simplified compared to that used in the first device 1. In this embodiment, the conveying mechanism comprises a single sprocket 131 for advancing the capsule chain 119. For convenience, the sprocket 131 is located on the inside of the bend 135f of the fold section 123 of the track 117. The spindle 133 of the sprocket 131 is rotatably connected to a knob 139, preferably having a knurled outer surface, disposed under the lower face 107 of the housing 103. Thus, rotation of the knob 139 causes rotation of the

FIGURES 14A-E show the sequence of movement of the capsule chain 119 through a complete circuit of the track 117 in response to rotation of the knob 139. As indicated by the arrows, the capsule chain 119 circulates the track 117 in an opposite rotative sense compared to the knob 139.

Appropriate medicaments for the medicament powder for use in the present invention may be selected from, for example, analgesics, e.g., codeine, dihydromorphine, ergotamine, fentanyl or morphine; anginal preparations, e.g., diltiazem; antiallergics, e.g., cromoglycate (e.g. as the sodium salt), ketotifen or nedocromil (e.g. as the sodium salt); antiinfectives e.g., cephalosporins, penicillins, streptomycin, sulphonamides, tetracyclines and pentamidine; antihistamines, e.g., methapyrilene; anti-inflammatories, e.g., beclomethasone (e.g. as the dipropionate ester), fluticasone (e.g. as the propionate ester), flunisolide, budesonide, rofleponide, mometasone e.g. as the furoate ester), ciclesonide, triamcinolone (e.g. as the acetonide) or 6 α , 9 α -difluoro-11 β -hydroxy-16 α -methyl-3-oxo-17 α -propionyloxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 β -carbothioic acid S-(2-oxo-tetrahydro-furan-3-yl) ester; antitussives, e.g., noscapine; bronchodilators, e.g., albuterol (e.g. as free base or sulphate), salmeterol (e.g. as xinafoate), ephedrine, adrenaline, fenoterol (e.g. as hydrobromide), formoterol (e.g. as fumarate), isoprenaline, metaproterenol, phenylephrine, phenylpropanolamine, pirbuterol (e.g. as acetate),

reproterol (e.g. as hydrochloride), rimiterol,
terbutaline (e.g. as sulphate), isoetharine,
tulobuterol or 4-hydroxy-7-[2-[[2-[[3-(2-
phenylethoxy)propyl]sulfonyl]ethyl]amino]-ethyl-2(3H)-
5 benzothiazolone; adenosine 2a agonists, e.g.
2R,3R,4S,5R)-2-[6-Amino-2-(1S-hydroxymethyl-2-phenyl-
ethylamino)-purin-9-yl]-5-(2-ethyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-
tetrahydro-furan-3,4-diol (e.g. as maleate); α_4
integrin inhibitors e.g. (2S)-3-[4-({ [4-
10 (aminocarbonyl)-1-piperidinyl]carbonyl}oxy)phenyl]-2-
[[(2S)-4-methyl-2-{[2-(2-methylphenoxy) acetyl]amino}-
pentanoyl]amino] propanoic acid (e.g. as free acid or
potassium salt), diuretics, e.g., amiloride;
anticholinergics, e.g., ipratropium (e.g. as bromide),
15 tiotropium, atropine or oxitropium; hormones, e.g.,
cortisone, hydrocortisone or prednisolone; xanthines,
e.g., aminophylline, choline theophyllinate, lysine
theophyllinate or theophylline; therapeutic proteins
and peptides, e.g., insulin or glucagon; vaccines,
20 diagnostics, and gene therapies. It will be clear to
a person skilled in the art that, where appropriate,
the medicaments may be used in the form of salts,
(e.g., as alkali metal or amine salts or as acid
addition salts) or as esters (e.g., lower alkyl
25 esters) or as solvates (e.g., hydrates) to optimise
the activity and/or stability of the medicament.

Produced medicaments and an anti-diabetic composition

containing a medicament having a glucose uptake inhibiting effect and a glucose

lowering agent and a glucose lowering agent

antiviral) and an antihistamine. The medicament may be the sole medicament in the capsules or in combination with another medicament. Preferred combinations are based on the preferred medicament 5 list above.

Preferred as a component of a medicament combination in the capsules are albuterol, salmeterol, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate 10 and salts or solvates thereof, e.g., the sulphate of albuterol and the xinafoate of salmeterol.

A particularly preferred medicament combination for use in the capsules of the invention is a 15 bronchodilator in combination with an anti-inflammatory. The bronchodilator is suitably a beta-agonist, particularly a long-acting beta-agonist (LABA). Suitable bronchodilators include salbutamol (e.g., as the free base or the sulphate salt), 20 salmeterol (e.g., as the xinafoate salt) and formoterol (eg as the fumarate salt). The anti-inflammatory is suitably an anti-inflammatory steroid. Suitable anti-inflammatory compounds include a beclomethasone ester (e.g., the dipropionate), a 25 fluticasone ester (e.g., the propionate) or budesonide or any salt or solvate thereof. One preferred combination is fluticasone propionate and salmeterol, or any salt or solvate thereof (particularly the xinafoate salt). A further preferred combination is 30 budesonide and formoterol or any salt or solvate thereof (e.g. formoterol as the fumarate salt).

Generally, powdered medicament particles suitable for delivery to the bronchial or alveolar region of the lung have an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 micrometers, preferably less than 6 micrometers. Other sized particles may be used if delivery to other portions of the respiratory tract is desired, such as the nasal cavity, mouth or throat. The medicament may be delivered as a pure drug or together with excipients (carriers) which are suitable for inhalation. Suitable excipients include organic excipients such as polysaccharides (i.e. starch, cellulose and the like), lactose, glucose, mannitol, amino acids, and maltodextrins, and inorganic excipients such as calcium carbonate or sodium chloride. Lactose is a preferred excipient. The excipient may be included with the medicament via well-known methods, such as by admixing, co-precipitating and the like.

20

Particles of the powdered medicament and/or excipient may be produced by conventional techniques, for example by micronisation, milling or sieving. Additionally, medicament and/or excipient powders may be engineered with particular densities, size ranges, or characteristics. Particles may comprise active agents, surfactants, wall forming materials, or other components considered feasible by those of ordinary

For the avoidance of doubt, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments described above with reference to the FIGURES of drawings, but may take any form within the scope of the appended 5 claims. Moreover, the specific embodiments may be modified in accordance with the claims. Furthermore, the use of prefixes such as "generally" and the like in relation to parameters and features of the invention is meant to encompass the exact parameter or 10 feature, as well as deviations therefrom. Lastly, the inclusion of reference numerals in the claims is solely for illustration, and not to be taken as having a limiting effect on the claims.

Claims

1. A track (17;117) adapted for use in a hand-held, capsule-containing device (1;101) which is adapted to receive a series of capsules (21;121) therein and defines a conveying path along which the capsules are conveyable, wherein the path includes at least one fold section (23;123) thereby to provide the path with a space-saving configuration.

10

2. A track according to claim 1, wherein the path is an endless path.

3. A track according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the at least one fold section is inwardly directed.

4. A track according to claims 2 and 3, wherein the at least one fold section is directed towards another section of the path.

20

5. A track according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the at least one fold section is a loop section in the path.

25 6. A track according to claim 5, wherein the loop section is an inverted, generally U-shape section.

7. A track according to any one of the preceding

section extending generally transversely to the first direction to connect the respective first ends of the first side sections and wherein the at least one fold section is in the second side section and has a pair 5 of opposed first side portions which extend generally in the first direction, the at least one fold section being directed such that each first side portion is in facing relation with a different first side section.

10 8. A track according to claim 7, wherein the first and second side sections define a generally W-shape when viewed in plan.

15 9. A track according to any one of the preceding claims adapted to receive the capsules in a chain configuration.

10. A track according to any one of the preceding claims adapted to receive, and to enable conveying of, 20 elongate capsules oriented upright in the track.

11. A hand-held device (1;101) for conveying capsules therein having a track (17;117) according to any one of the preceding claims.

25 12.. A hand-held device according to claim 11 further having a plurality of capsules (21;121) in the track.

13. A hand-held device according to claim 12 in which 30 the capsules are in a chain configuration (19;119) in the track.

14. A hand-held device according to claim 13 in which the capsules are in an endless chain in the track.
- 5 15. A hand-held device according to claim 13 or 14 in which the capsules are linked together to form the chain.
- 10 16. A hand-held device according to any one of claims 12 to 15 in which the capsules are of elongate form and disposed upright in the track.
- 15 17. A hand-held device according to any one of claims 12 to 16 in which the capsules are of generally cylindrical form.
18. A hand-held device according to any one of claims 12 to 17 in which the capsules contain a powder.
- 20 19. A hand-held device according to any one of claims 12 to 18, wherein the capsules contain a medicament.
- 25 20. A hand-held device according to any one of claims 11 to 19 further having a conveying mechanism (27, 31b-f; 131, 139) for conveying the capsules about the track.
21. A hand-held device according to claim 20 in which

22. A hand-held device according to claim 21, wherein
the at least one sprocket is located at a bend (35b-f;
135f) in the track for engaging the capsules for
5 advancement thereof along the track.
23. A hand-held device according to claim 22, wherein
the sprocket is located at the fold section.
- 10 24. A hand-held device according to any one of claims
11 to 23 adapted for use as a component part of an
inhalation device for delivering medicament to a
patient.
- 15 25. An inhalation device for delivering medicament to
a patient incorporating a hand-held device according
to any one of claims 11 to 24.
- 20 26. A track for use in a hand-held, capsule-
containing device substantially as hereinbefore
described with reference to, and as shown in, FIGURES
1 to 6 or FIGURES 7 to 14 of the accompanying
drawings.
- 25 27. A hand-held device adapted for conveying capsules
therein substantially as hereinbefore described with
reference to, and as shown in, FIGURES 1 to 6 or
FIGURES 7 to 14 of the accompanying drawings.

A Hand-Held Capsule Device

Abstract

- 5 In one aspect, the present invention provides a track (17;117) adapted for use in a hand-held, capsule-containing device (1;101) which is adapted to receive a series of capsules (21;121) therein and defines a conveying path along which the capsules are
10 conveyable. The path includes at least one fold section (23;123) thereby to provide the path with a space-saving configuration. In another aspect of the present invention there is provided a hand-held device incorporating the track and capsules in the track.
15 The capsules may contain a medicament powder.

(FIG. 3)

FIG. 1

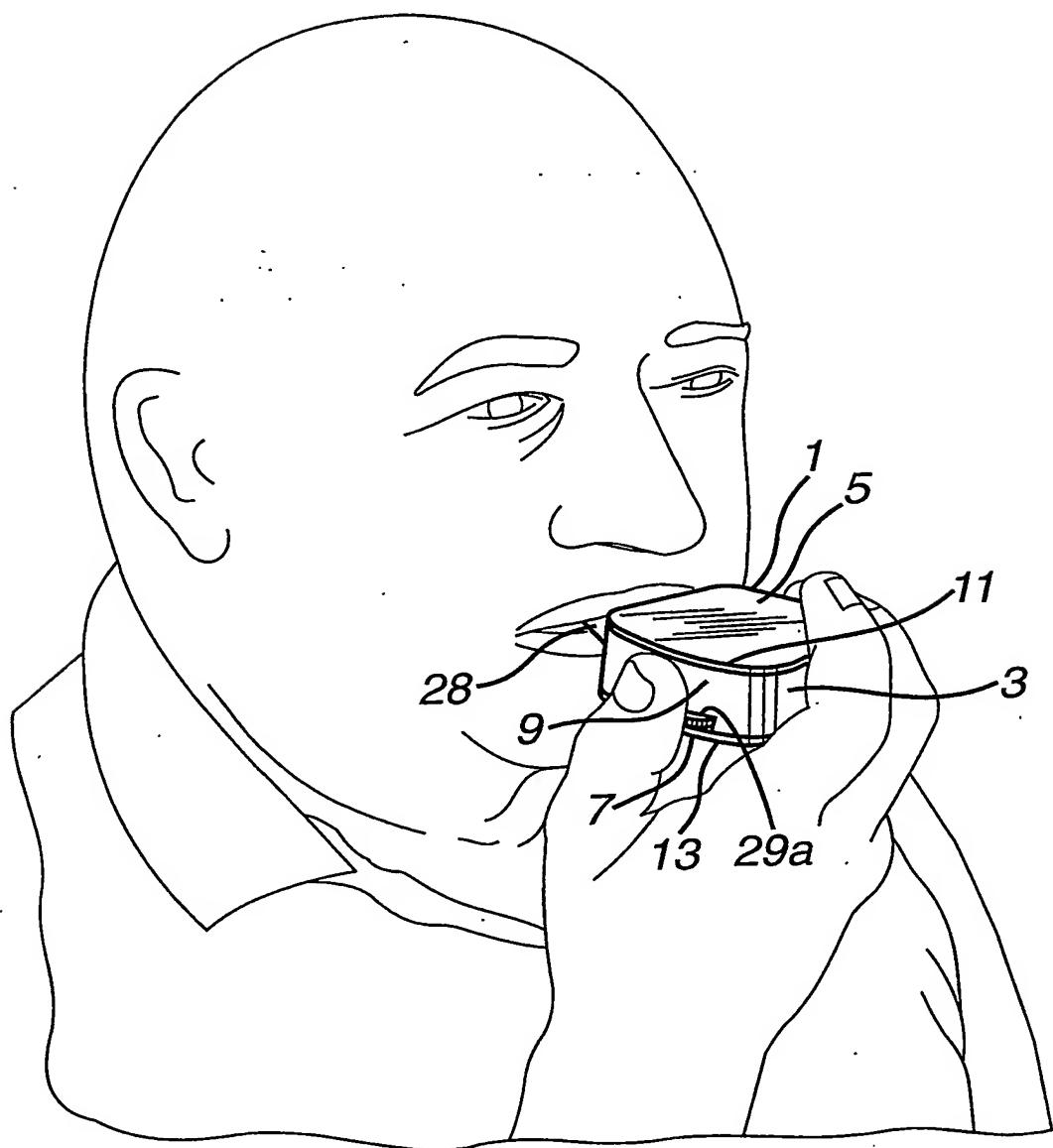
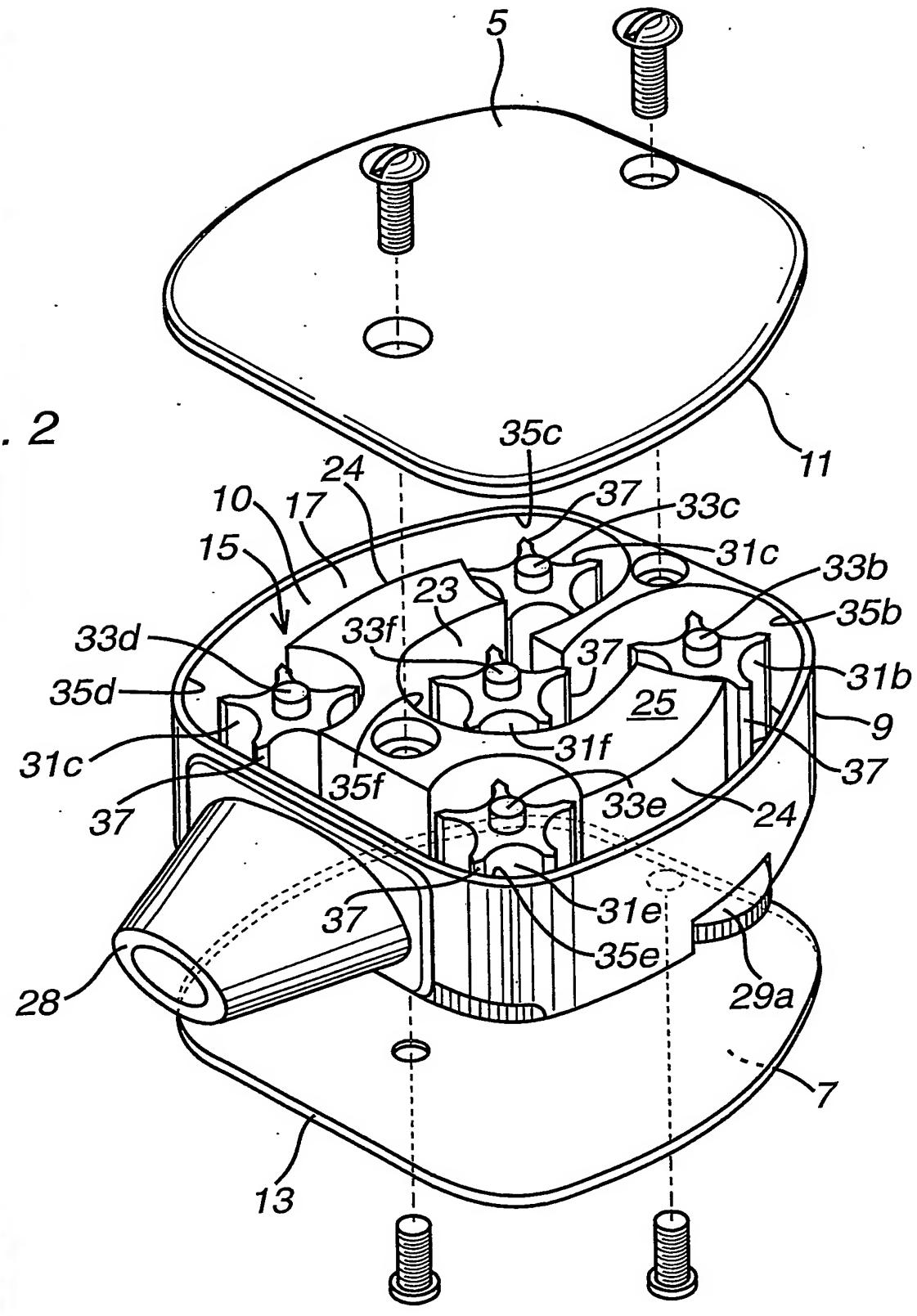
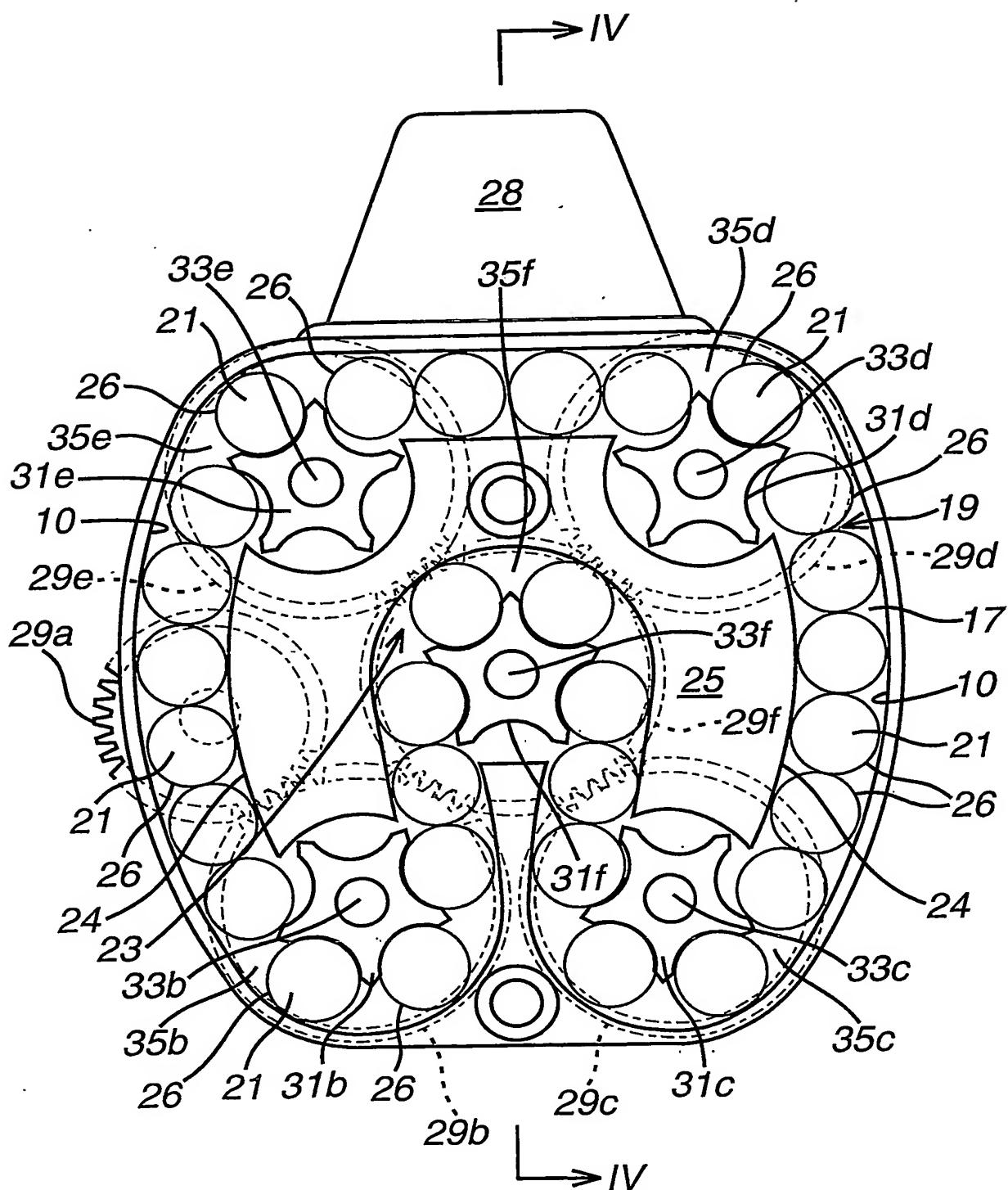


FIG. 2



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FIG. 3



4/15

FIG. 4

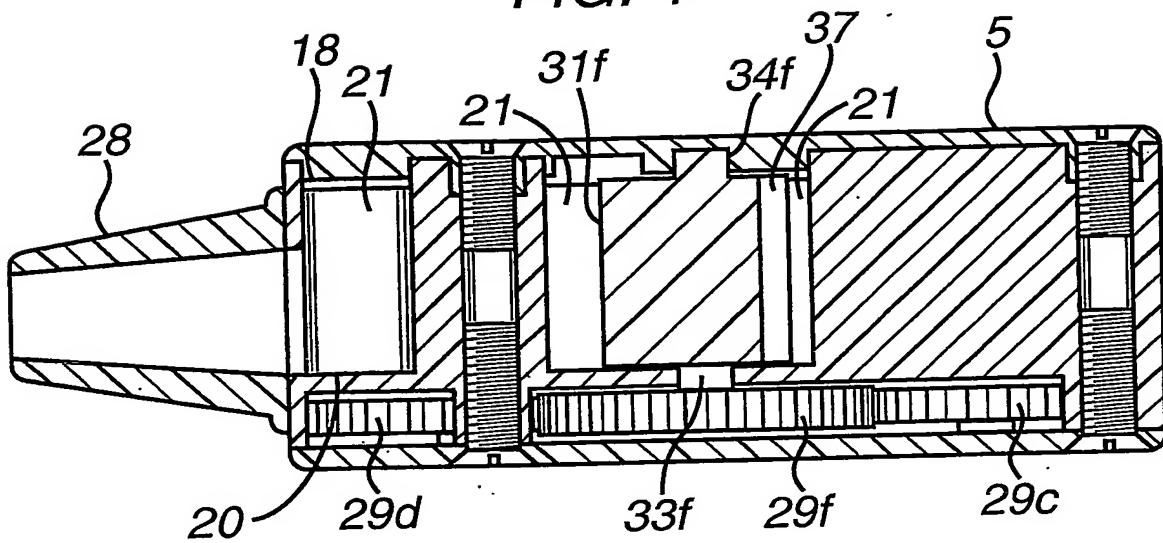
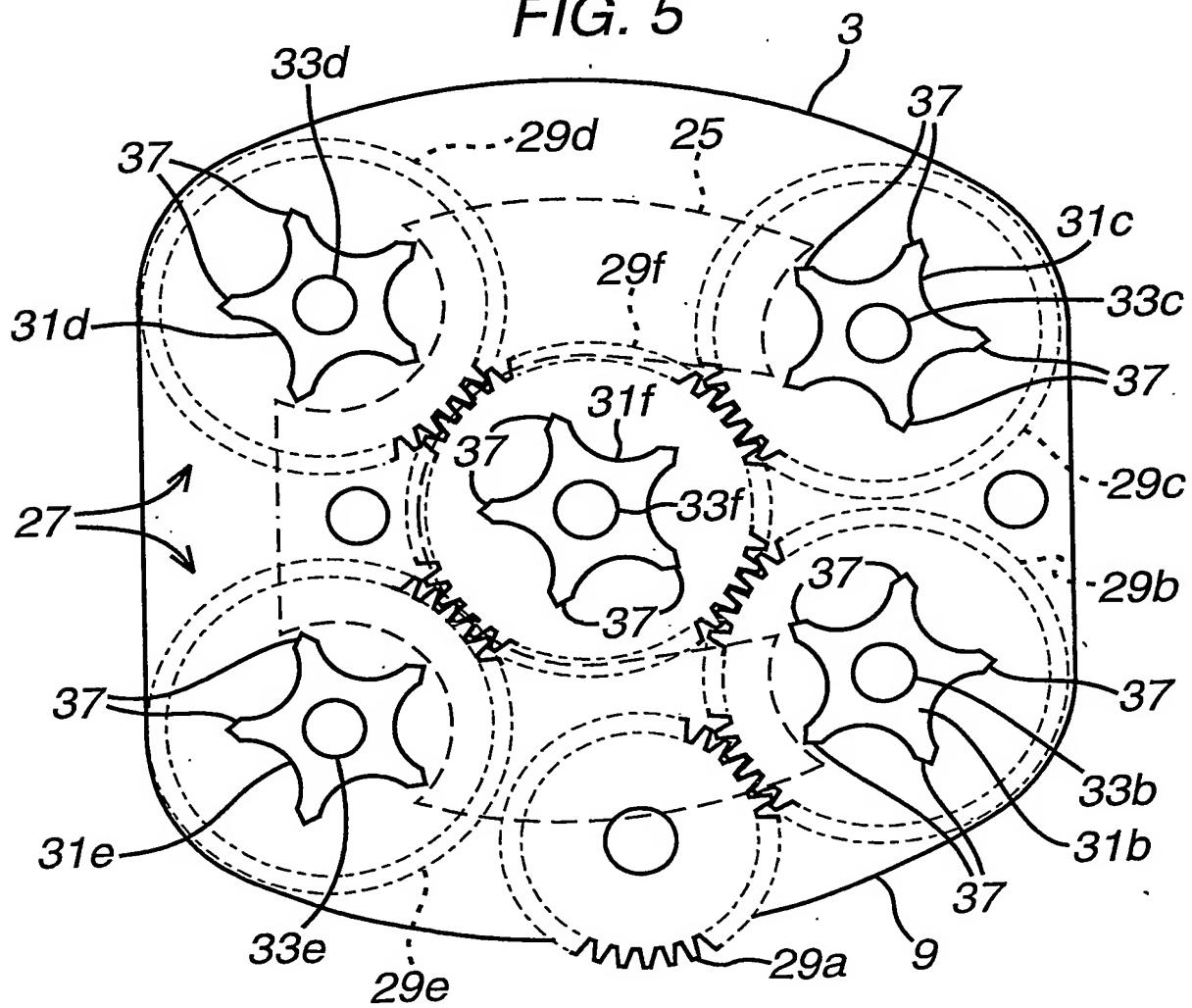


FIG. 5



5/15

FIG. 6A

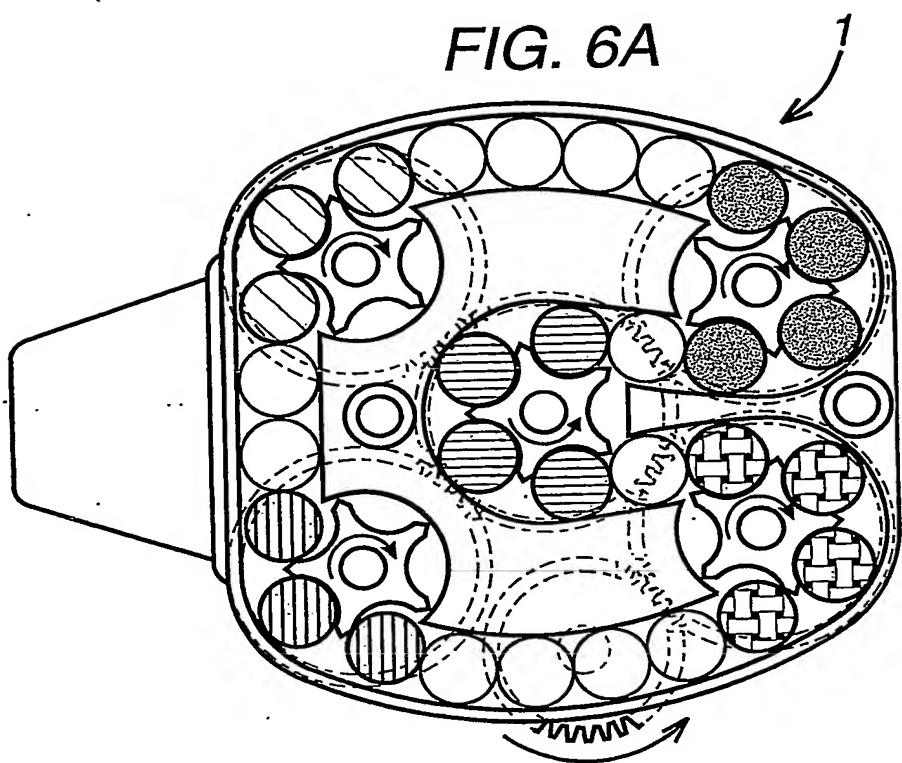
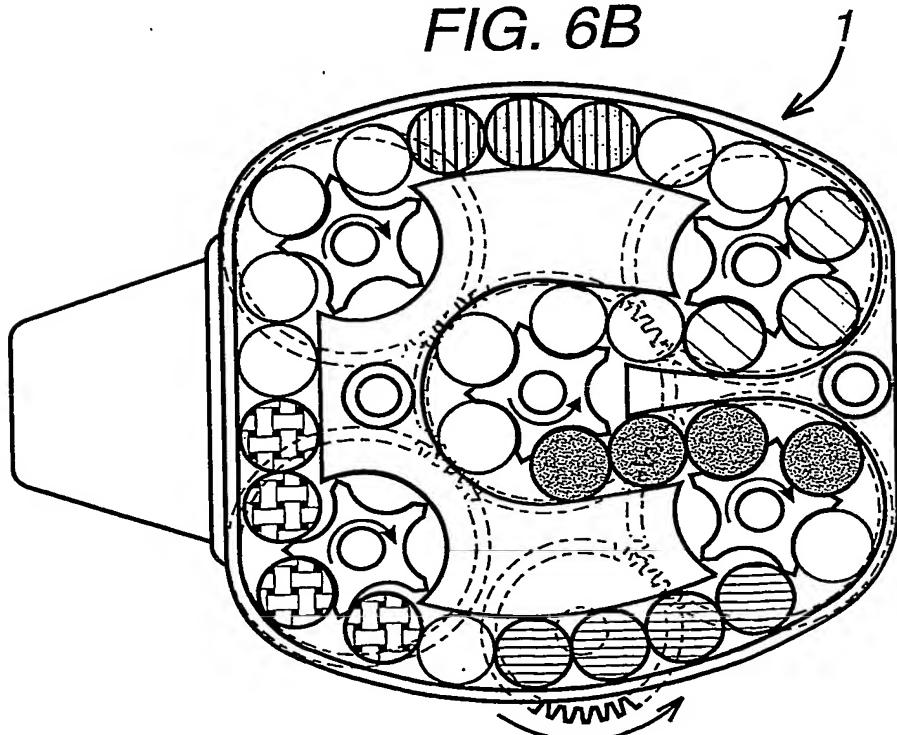


FIG. 6B



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FIG. 6C

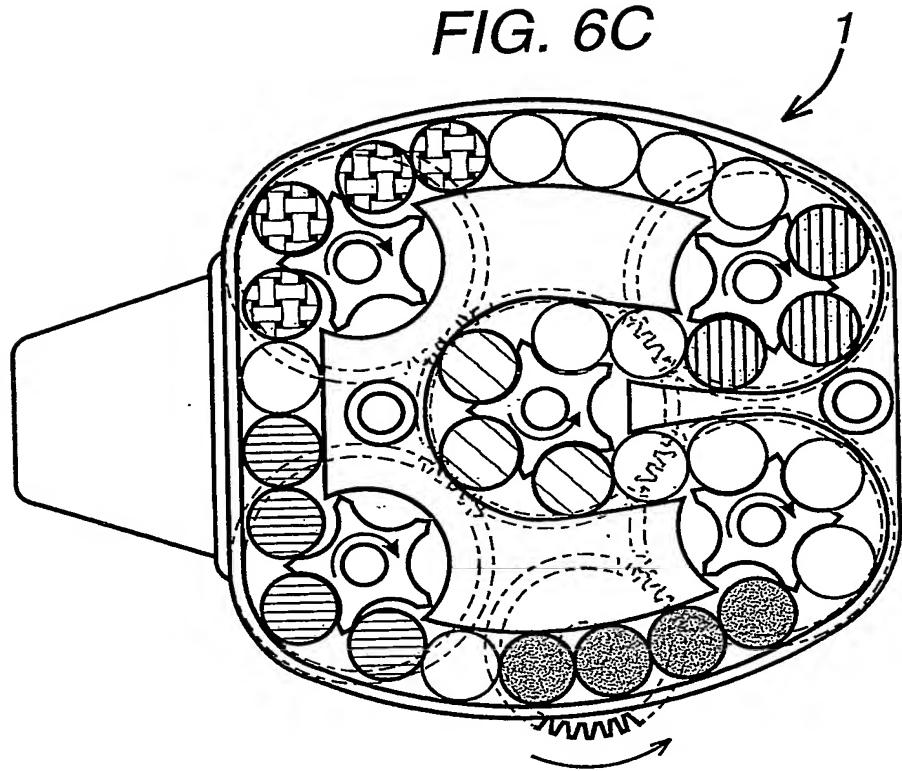
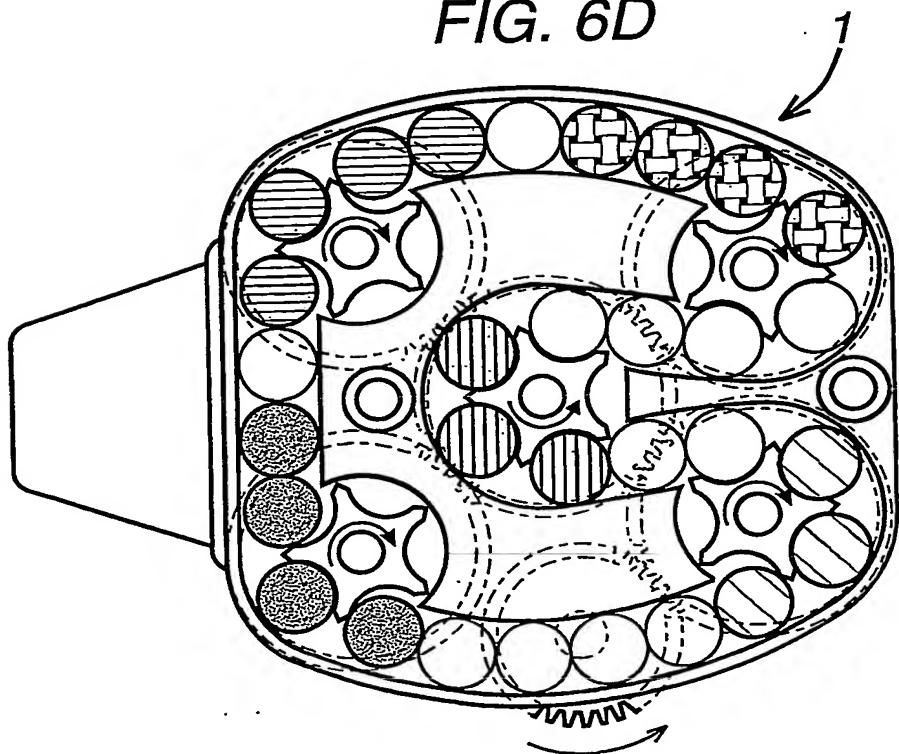


FIG. 6D



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FIG. 6E

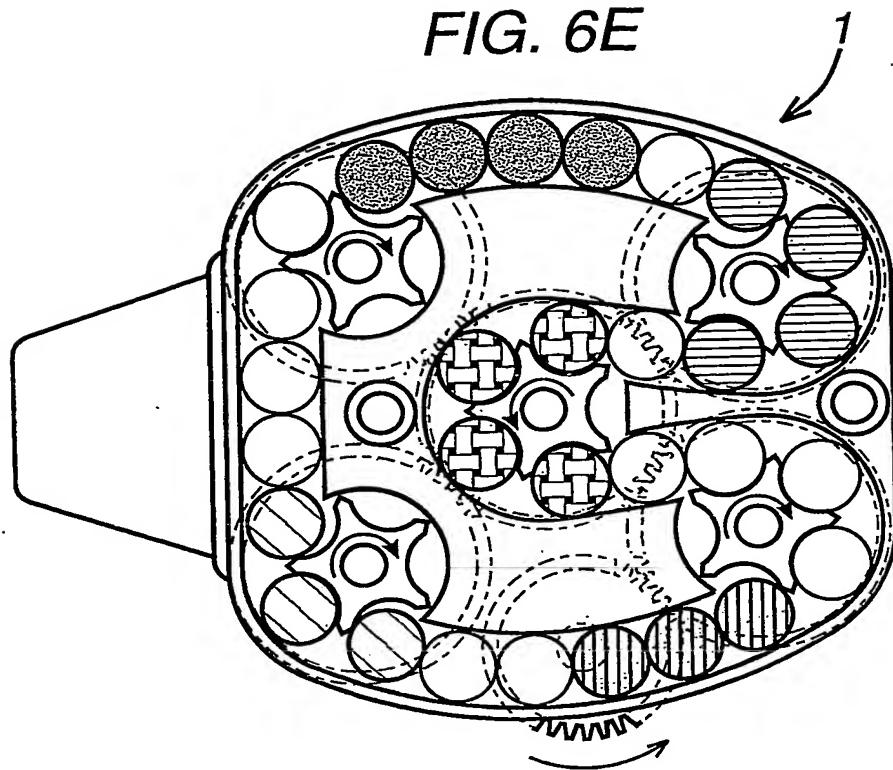


FIG. 6F

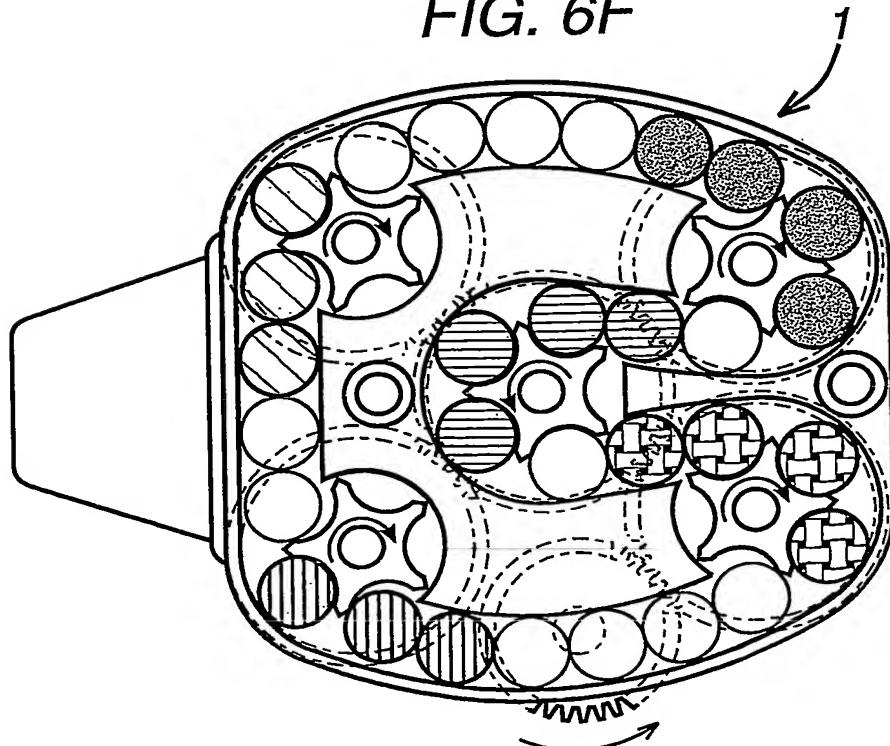


FIG. 7

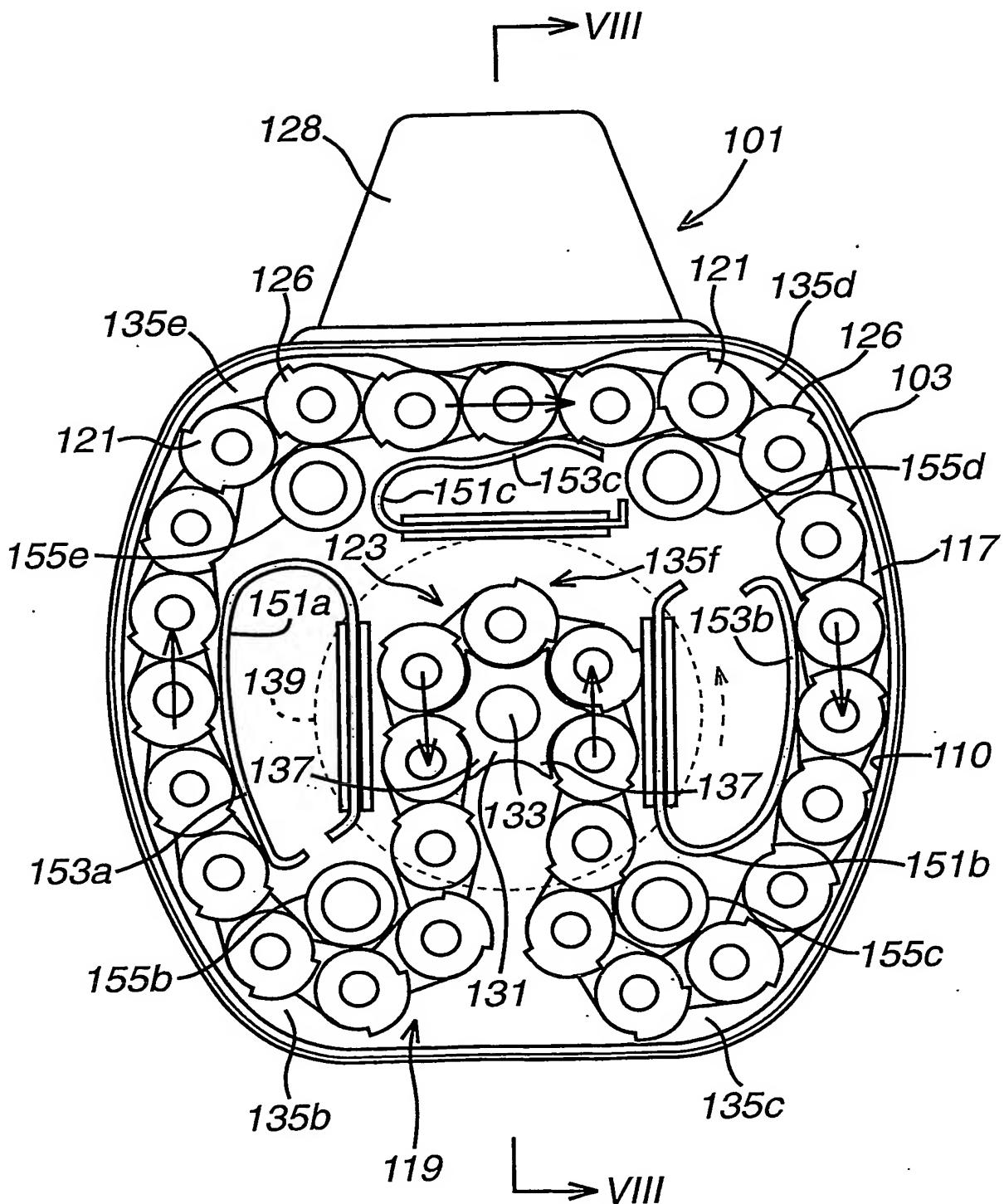


FIG. 8

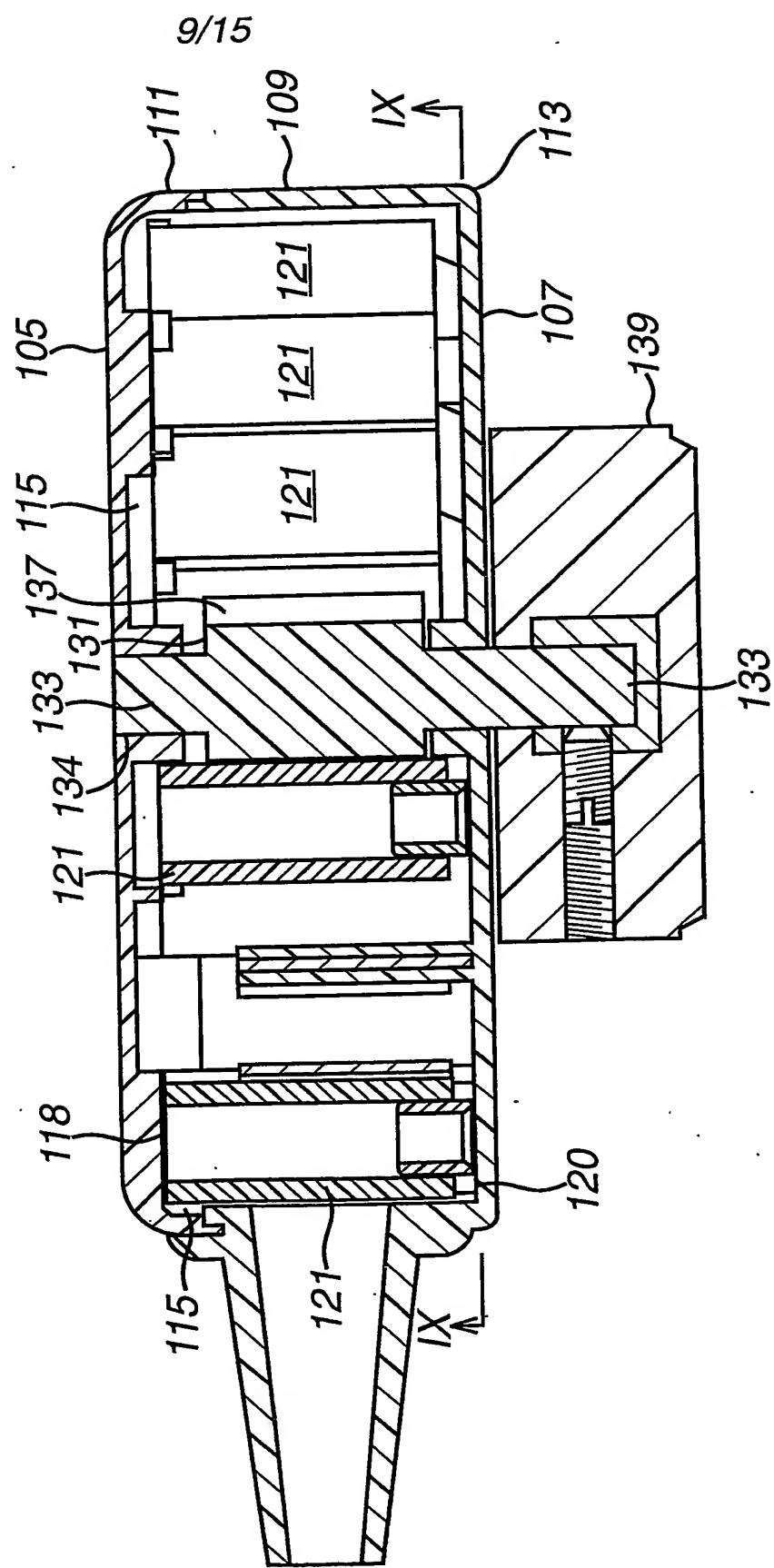
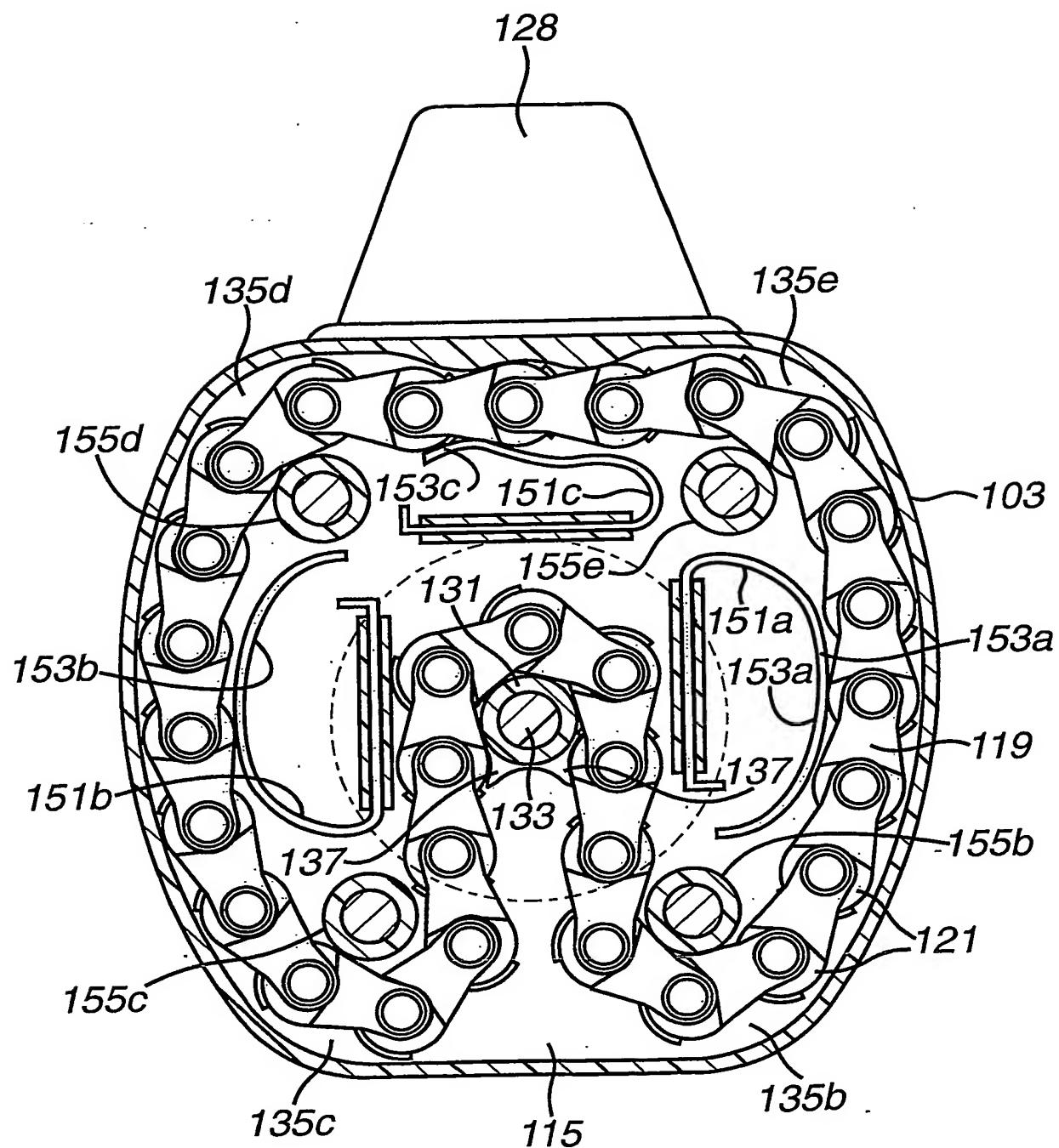


FIG. 9



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FIG. 10

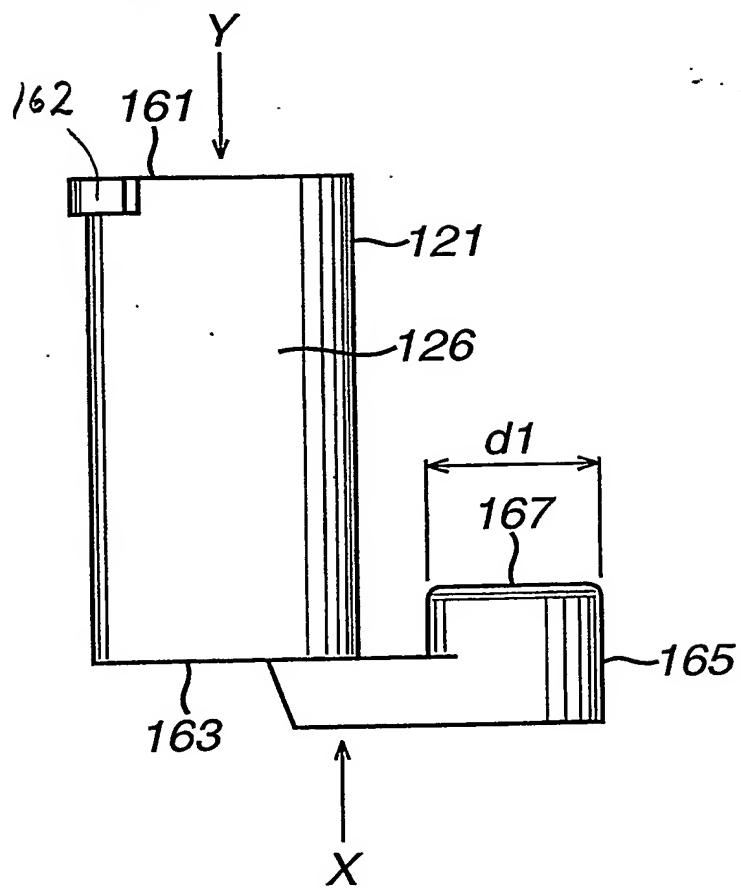
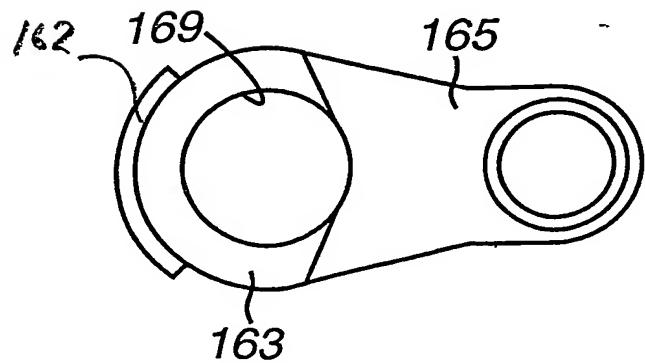


FIG. 11



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FIG. 12

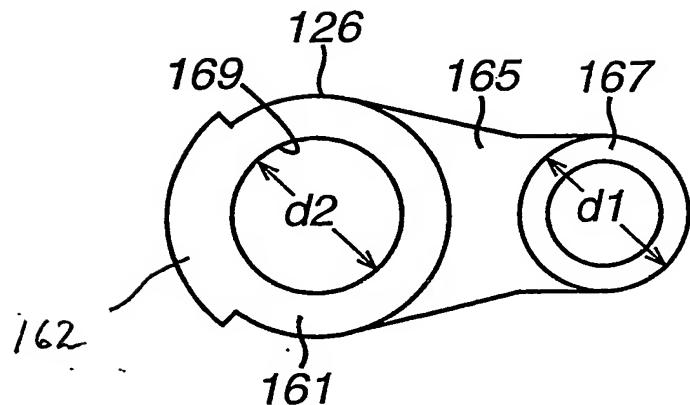
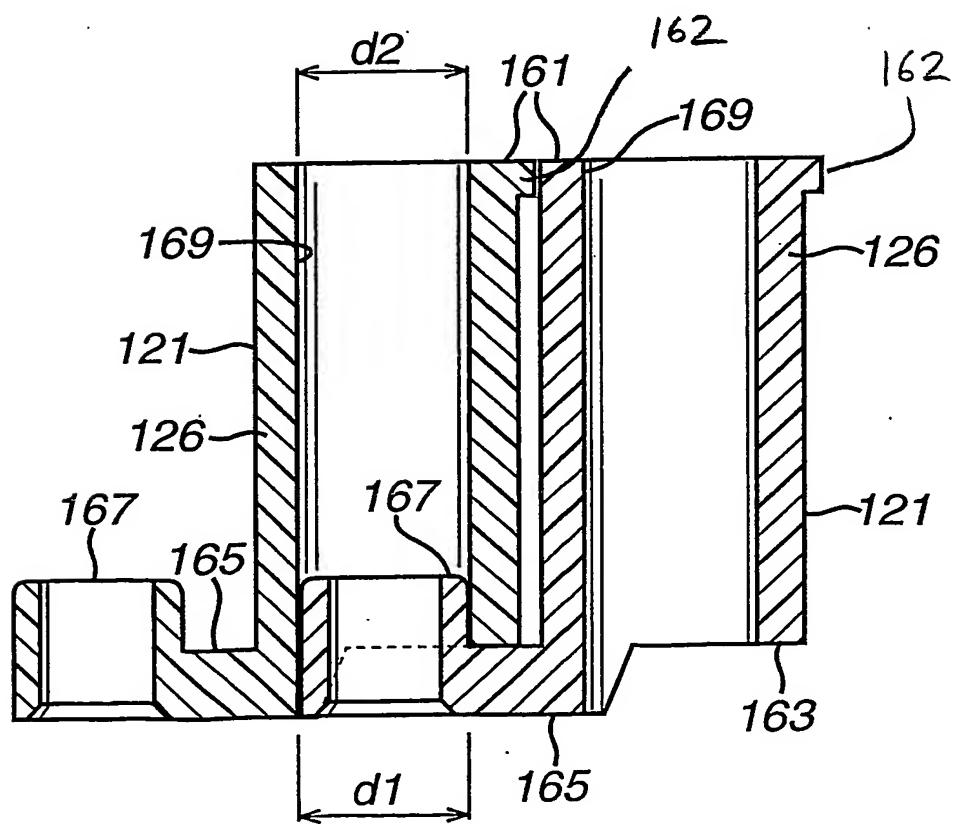


FIG. 13



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FIG. 14A

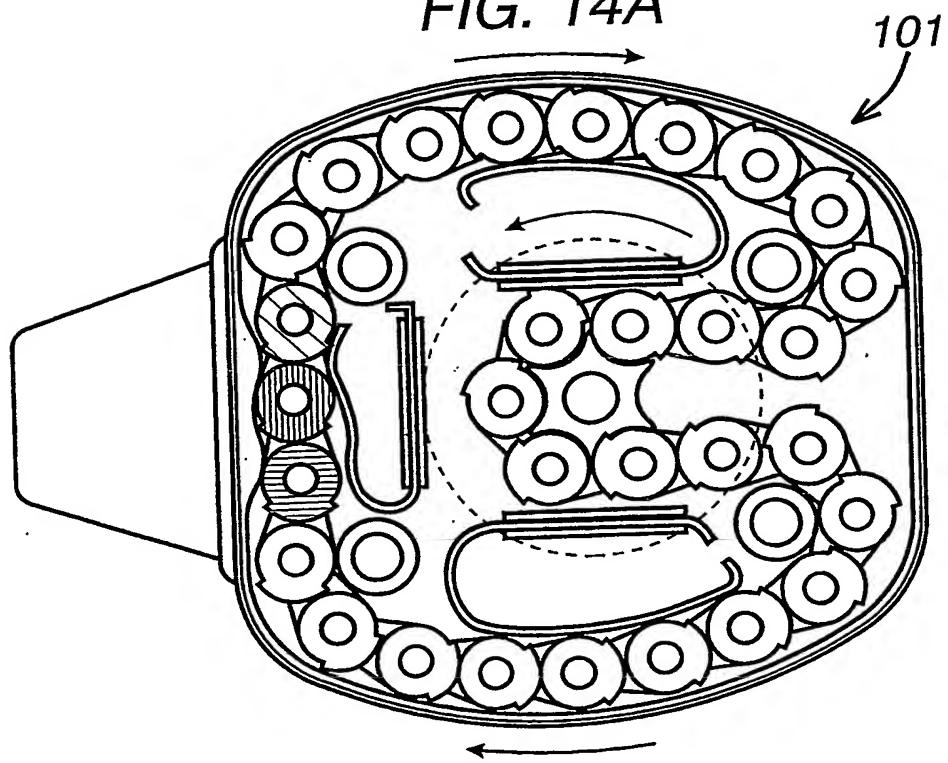
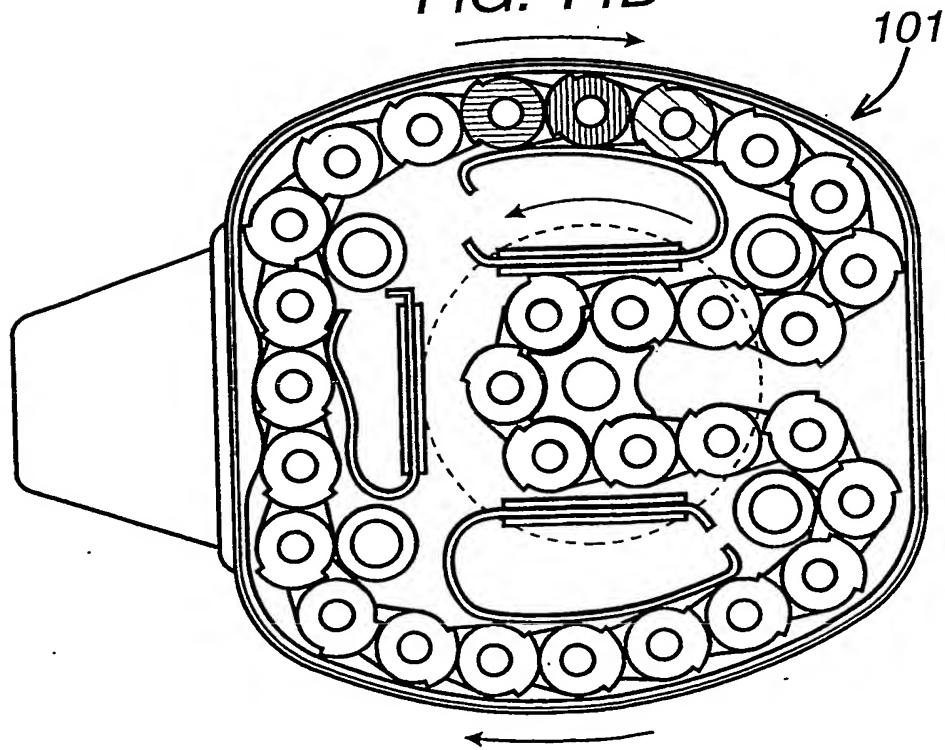


FIG. 14B



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FIG. 14C

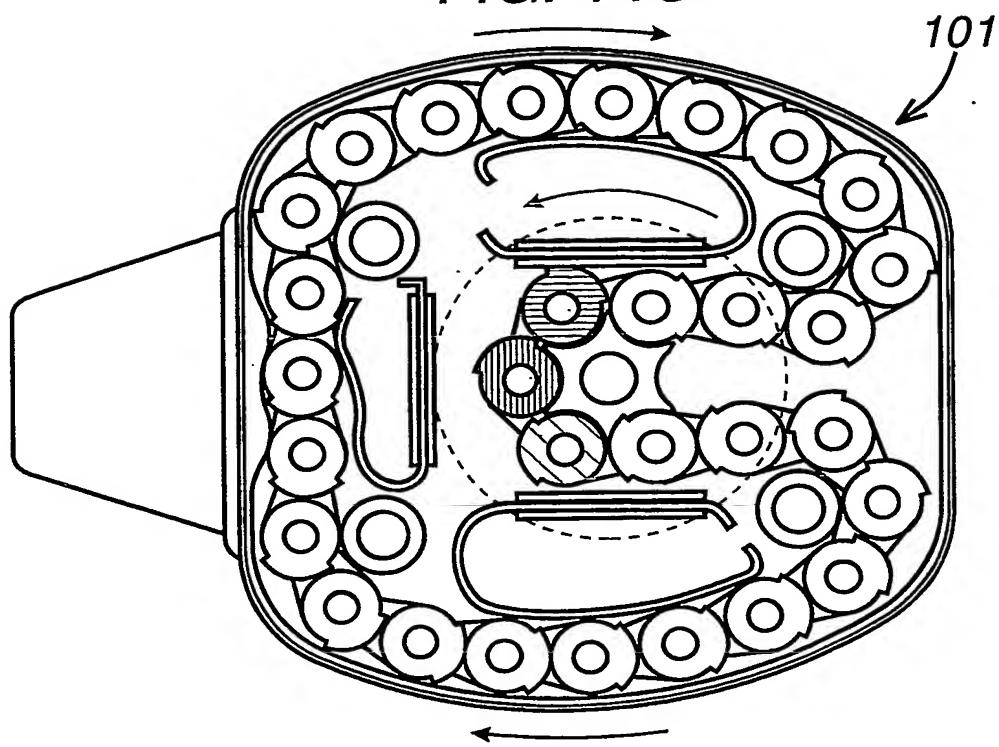
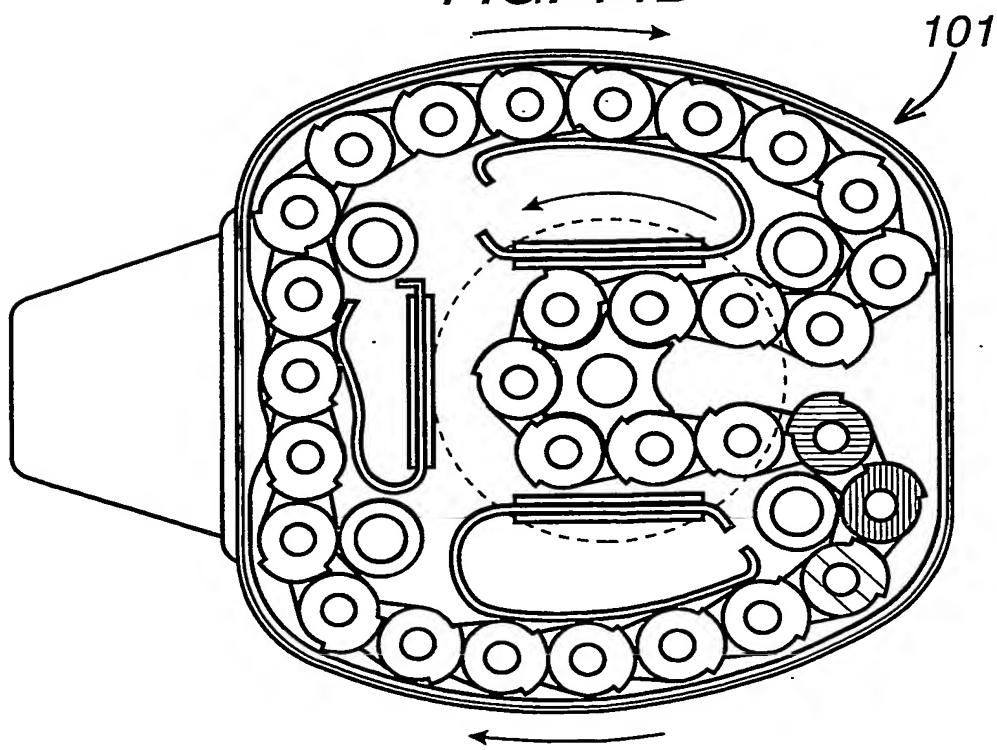
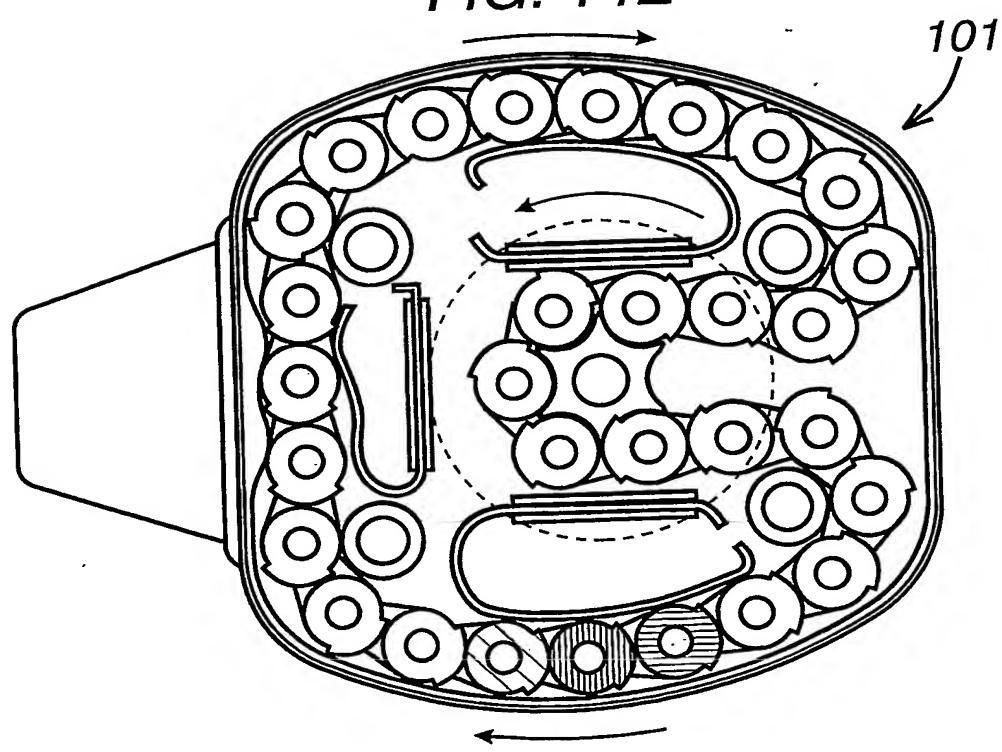


FIG. 14D



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FIG. 14E



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